United Nations A/S-27/8

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 October 2001

Original: English

Twenty-seventh special session
Items 8 and 9 of the provisional agenda*

Review of the achievements in the implementation and results of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s

Renewal of commitment and future action for children in the next decade

Letter dated 24 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The 4th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare (AMRSW) was held in Singapore from 1 to 3 August 2001.

During the course of the meeting, the Ministers of the 10 member countries made a Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN. This Declaration is a recommitment to the 1993 Plan of Action for Children which provides a framework for strengthening the family and promoting regional cooperation for the survival, protection and development of children.

The Declaration illustrates the strong commitment that ASEAN has made towards the promotion of development and protection of the welfare of children in the region.

On behalf of AMRSW, Singapore would like to present the Declaration to the special session of the General Assembly on children.

It would be most appreciated if the Declaration and this letter could be circulated as an official document of the special session of the General Assembly on children.

(*Signed*) Kishore **Mahbubani**
Ambassador

* A/S-27/1.

01-56073 (E) 051001

Annex to the letter dated 24 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration on the commitments for children in ASEAN

We, the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare, representing Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam,

RECALLING that the ASEAN Vision 2020, adopted by the 2nd ASEAN Informal Summit held in Kuala Lumpur in December 1997, envisioned ASEAN as a socially cohesive and caring ASEAN where hunger, malnutrition, deprivation and poverty are no longer basic problems, where strong families as a basic unit of society tend to their members particularly the children, youth, women and elderly;

RECALLING the ASEAN Plan of Action for Children adopted by the 3rd Meeting of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare held in Manila on 2 December 1993 to promote regional cooperation for the survival, development, protection and participation of the ASEAN child;

ENCOURAGED by the Hanoi Plan of Action adopted by the ASEAN Heads of State and Government in Hanoi on 15 December 1998 to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action on Children;

GUIDED by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the outcomes of the World Summit on Children, the World Summit for Social Development and other international instruments concerning children;

AWARE that despite significant progress made in uplifting the quality of life of individuals, poverty continues to remain a major challenge to the pursuit of a world fit for children;

MINDFUL that holistic development of children enable and equip them for the achievement of their full potential and shall contribute to a future to prosperity and progress in ASEAN;

DO HEREBY AGREE, IN THE SPIRIT OF ASEAN SOLIDARITY AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE, TO:

(1) Promote regional cooperation for the survival, development, protection and participation of ASEAN children, as an integral part of ASEAN's effort to improve the lives of people in the region.

(2) Intensify ASEAN economic and social development cooperation so as to eradicate the scourges of poverty, hunger and homelessness, which have a far-reaching impact on children, in order to promote their welfare and well-being.

(3) Protect, respect and recognize the rights of all children, including those of indigenous people, consistent with the customs and traditions of their respective communities.

(4) Recognize and encourage respect for children's rights through mutual sharing of information on the rights of the child by ASEAN members, taking into account the different religious, cultural and social values of different countries.

(5) Acknowledge that children with special needs should be granted opportunities to enable them to take their proper place in society and live as independently as possible.

(6) Create opportunities for children and young people to express their views, advocate their rights and concerns, and participate in community development.

(7) Encourage the empowerment of children to meet the challenges of and seize the opportunities created by globalization.

(8) Create employment opportunities for adult family members in ASEAN countries, as stable families are the keys to social, physical and emotional development of children.

(9) Develop family support and family life education programmes to help families, the primary caretakers of children, to nurture and protect their children.

(10) Provide appropriate care, including alternative family care or home with a family environment, to homeless children and those without families.

(11) Give attention to early childhood education and care through training and sharing of best practices among ASEAN child care professionals.

(12) Give the ASEAN child a better future by strengthening functional literacy and promoting access to education, and information and communication technology (ICT) skills.

(13) Ensure the protection of children from HIV/AIDS and drug abuse by instituting broad-based programmes and strategies to halt its spread and provide care for its victims.

(14) Strengthen primary health-care services to children.

(15) Protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, trafficking and exploitation while at home, in school and in the community.

(16) Protect children from armed conflict, victimization or deprivation of a childhood rooted in peace and joy.

(17) Give priority to children in rescue and relief operations during calamities and natural disasters in the provision of services to alleviate their trauma and hasten their reunification with their families.

(18) Establish a child-centred juvenile justice system which fully safeguards children's rights and promotes children's reintegration to society.

DONE in English in one copy on this 2nd day of August 2001 at the 4th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare in Singapore.

H.E. Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hussain bin Pehin Dato Haji Awang Mohd. Yusof
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports,
Brunei Darussalam

H.E. Mme. Prak Chantha
Secretary of State
Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Vocational Training and
Youth Rehabilitation
Kingdom of Cambodia

H.E. Prof. Dr. Yaumil Chairiah Agoes Achir
Deputy Secretary of the Vice President,
Republic of Indonesia

H.E. Mr. Somphanh Phengkhammy
Minister of Labour and Social Welfare,
Lao People's Democratic Republic

H.E. Dato' Dr. Hajah Siti Zaharah binti Sulaiman
Minister of National Unity and Social Development,
Malaysia

H.E. Major-General Sein Htwa
Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement,
Union of Myanmar

H.E. Mrs. Corazon Juliano-Soliman
Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development
Republic of the Philippines

H.E. Mr. Abdullah Tarmugi
Minister for Community Development and Sports,
Republic of Singapore

H.E. Mr. Elawat Chandraprasert
Permanent Secretary and Representative of Minister of Labour and Social Welfare,
Kingdom of Thailand

H.E. Mr. Dam Huu Dac
Vice-Minister of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs,
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

United Nations A/S-27/9

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 October 2001

Original: English

Twenty-seventh special session
Items 8 and 9 of the provisional agenda*

Review of the achievements in the implementation and results of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s

Renewal of commitment and future action for children in the next decade

Letter dated 12 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter prepared and signed by a group of 85 Qatari children from the Qatari Center for the Education of Children (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the special session of the General Assembly on children, under items 8 and 9 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/S-27/1.

01-58391 (E) 291001 301001

Annex to the letter dated 12 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Letter from the children of Qatar to Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, New York

When we picture ourselves sitting safely in our homes, going out to our classes feeling quite secure, or going to the market or places of recreation or entertainment without fear; when we look at our parents and know that, with the help of God, they will come back home and will shower us with love and affection until we become grown men and women; and when we then compare our situation with the situation of our young brothers and sisters in Palestine and Iraq, we are filled with sorrow at what those children have experienced, having lost their safety and security, their education, their health and a life of dignity. On our own behalf and on behalf of all the children of Qatar, we entreat everyone who has a conscience to assist in restoring to those children their rights and a life of dignity and security.

The children of Qatar
1 September 2001

Signatures annexed

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